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STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

ORGANIZATION

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1987



STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

CHAIRMAN: McCague, G. R. (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Guindon, L. B. (Cornwall PC)

Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)

Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)

Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt L)

McKessock, R. (Grey L)

Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

Offer, S. (Mississauga North L)

Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)

Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Clerk: Deller, D.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Thursday, May 28, 1987

The committee met at 10:17 a.m. in room 228.

ORGANIZATION

Clerk of the Committee: It is my duty to call for nominations for chairman.

Mr. Lane: It is my pleasure to nominate Mr. McCague for chairman.

Clerk of the Committee: Are there any further nominations?

There being no further nominations, I declare Mr. McCague elected chairman of the committee.

Mr. Lane: Speech, speech.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you very much, committee members. I will be pleased to act as your chairman for whatever term.

The election of a vice-chairman.

Mr. Lane: I take pleasure in nominating Mr. Guindon. He did a good job for us last year.

Mr. Chairman: Any further nominations? No further nominations. Mr. Guindon is the vice-chairman of the standing committee on general government.

Mr. Offer moves that, unless otherwise ordered, a transcript of all committee hearings be made.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: You have before you a proposed budget for the committee for the time being, I guess. The only matter that is referred to us, as I understand it, is consideration of the School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act. I do not think it is official yet, but clause-by-clause discussion of Bill 170, which might have been considered here or in the House, I understand now there is agreement among the House leaders that will happen in the House, so the only matter before us will be the review of Bill 100.

Mr. Offer moves that the budget, in the amount of \$22,845, be approved and that the chairman be authorized to present the budget to the Board of Internal Economy.

Motion agreed to.

1020

Mr. Lane: I assume, if there was more work before us than was anticipated, we could go back and ask for an increased budget if necessary.



Mr. Chairman: That is the way it is customarily done. Of course, there is no budget for matters that are considered here in committee while the House is in session.

#### PENSION BENEFITS ACT

Mr. Chairman: On the agenda that was presented to me, there is a decision on Bill 170. I am not sure what we are supposed to do with regard to that.

Clerk of the Committee: The committee can refer the bill back to the House without amendments in order to get it back into the House so that clause-by-clause can be done in committee of the whole.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McKessock moves that the bill be reported back to the House without amendment.

Mrs. Grier: Should we make a recommendation that the bill be considered in committee of the whole House or does that happen? There was a case with another bill that was reported back for third reading and then we had to undo that in order to get the clause-by-clause in the House. What is the mechanism for that to happen?

Clerk of the Committee: The recommendation can be that clause-by-clause be done in committee of the whole House.

Mrs. Grier: I would like to add that to the recommendation if that is appropriate then.

Mr. Chairman: Is there any discussion on that point?

Mr. Lane: I wonder whether it would be useful for our research people to provide members of the committee with some of the highlights of the hearings so that we can debate it in the House based on what we heard before the committee, because the whole House is not entitled to hear what we heard, and I think it would be helpful.

Mr. Chairman: You now have some of what you wanted.

Mr. Lane: Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: All in favour of the combined motion of Mr. McKessock and Mrs. Grier?

Motion agreed to.

#### SCHOOL BOARDS AND TEACHERS COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ACT

Mr. Chairman: For your consideration of the Teachers and School Boards Collective Negotiations Act, there are two matters mentioned here: the Sudbury hearings and the report. I believe it is the opinion of the clerk that the amount of pressure that is being exerted by the people in the Sudbury area who had expected to have the opportunity to come before this committee, indicates that it would be wise for the committee to go there, as it had previously agreed to do, and to hear what the people have to say.

I am told by the clerk that it would probably have to be on a Friday unless there was special permission of the House, and the clerk also points



out that it is difficult to get special permission of the House to travel on a day when the House is sitting.

What is the committee's wish in this regard?

Mr. Offer: How many people were on the agenda for the Sudbury hearing?

Clerk of the Committee: There were five organizations on the agenda. There are now two additional organizations that wish to be placed on the agenda.

Mr. Offer: For seven submissions.

Mr. Pollock: If there is any possibility of accommodating those people, I think we should.

Mrs. Grier: I was not a member of the committee and I am not familiar with the circumstances. What happened? You could not get to Sudbury?

Mr. Pollock: There was a bad snowstorm.

Mr. Chairman: There was a bad snowstorm, which delayed them in Windsor, I think it was.

Mr. Lane: It will not likely snow in June so maybe we should make an effort to go on a Friday. I do not have any knowledge of that. If there is sufficient demand to go, I think it is only fair that we should go.

Mr. Chairman: There appears to be agreement to go. I know some of the members are reluctant to go on a Friday. It would be my intention not to attend that meeting, simply because Mr. Guindon, as you well remember, took all those meetings and I had not been a party to any of this all the way through. I intended that Mr. Guindon chair the balance of the sessions on Bill 100.

We might ask for permission to go another day.

Mr. Offer: Just a question with respect to the setting of potential deputants. Would we be doing this? Would translation service be required in the Sudbury area?

Clerk of the Committee: There are two groups that might need translation services. I accounted for that in the budget.

Mr. Offer: I see. Did we not canvass the possibility of them coming down to the Legislature, taking into consideration the snowstorm and the fact that we are in session? I am just asking if we asked the question.

Mr. Chairman: The question was not asked. There is an unwritten policy that if they asked for expenses, for instance, that probably would be something the committee would have to consider. If there are any great number of them, that becomes a difficulty. We have paid transportation costs for others who appeared on other bills. It is not the rule but it is done.

Mrs. Grier: Getting everybody to go on a Friday is not going to prove that easy. Is there any way of accommodating it during the week? Are any of the groups anxious in any case to have to make their submissions in the



evening? Could we go early afternoon and hold a late afternoon and evening session and come back?

Mr. McKessock: Wednesday afternoon. Thursday is the committee day. Maybe we could go Wednesday evening.

Mr. Chairman: As I understand it, the difficulty with going is probably question period as much as anything, that portion of the day. You are going to miss that in any event. Thursday is customarily committee day. Monday would be another alternative.

Mrs. Grier: Can we canvass the members of the committee on appropriate days?

Mr. Chairman: Could I have a show of hands of those who think Thursday is as good a day as any to do it?

Four out of the five here say Thursday would be the best day. Would somebody make a motion that we ask for permission to go to Sudbury on a Thursday?

Mrs. Grier moves, in view of the circumstances that prevented the committee from holding its hearing in Sudbury, that permission be granted for us to do that on a Thursday in this session.

Motion agreed to.

1030

Mr. Chairman: A week from Thursday is as soon as it could reasonably be set up. That would be June 11. How does June 11 suit committee members? Four of the five who are here indicate June 11 would be a good day.

The problem is there should be a report on this. If you are going to leave it too late, that means the committee is down for three weeks, if that is your wish. Are you particularly anxious to be at that hearing?

Mr. Lane: Somebody will have to replace me.

Mr. Chairman: Four out of five is probably as good as we will get at any point in time. I presume the committee would want to start sitting following that, the routine sitting on June 18 to start considering the report.

Mr. Offer: There is one caveat. I do not know what is on the House agenda but if there is a vote on Thursday, say on the pension bill, if we are in clause-by-clause on the pension bill and we will most likely be on clause-by-clause in the pension bill and we have decided to be on clause-by-clause, we would then be telling the Sudbury people, "It is okay for us to come on Thursday except for one thing: we are not going to be there." That could be very embarrassing.

Mr. Chairman: It could be. I think the answer to your point is that we have to seek the House leader's permission in order to be away.

Mr. Offer: Okay. I just put the caveat.

Mr. Chairman: You are exactly right. Maybe you will speak to your House leader and see what is happening on Bill 170. All of this committee is in the same boat, because Bill 170 was considered before this committee.



Mr. Offer: That is right.

Mrs. Grier: Could our request for permission to go to Sudbury on a Thursday be couched in such a way that we say, "on a Thursday other than a day when Bill 170 is..." so it is right there attached to the motion to go? It will be the House leaders who will be doing the scheduling and they might as well know when they are scheduling that they cannot arrive at a conflict on that.

Mr. Chairman: Okay. We can write that into the motion? I think everyone would agree to that. Are other days in the week bad for committee members? Is Wednesday a bad day?

Mr. Offer: There could be a potential problem.

Mr. Chairman: That is right. There will be one day set aside for budget debate on a continuing basis, I presume, as long as the House is sitting. That may be Monday.

Mr. Lane: Monday is a good day for me. I am coming back and I can certainly be there on a Monday.

Mr. Chairman: Let us try and work it out on the basis of this motion and see what the House leaders say.

The only other very important item on the agenda is to tell you that, whenever that meeting is, our committee clerk Ms. Deller will not be with us. I presume the reason is obvious to most of you. On behalf of the committee, we wish you well, Debbie, in your few weeks off. How many weeks off? Is it 17, 15, whatever? I hope everything goes well with you. Ms. Manikel will be our clerk for whatever length of time.

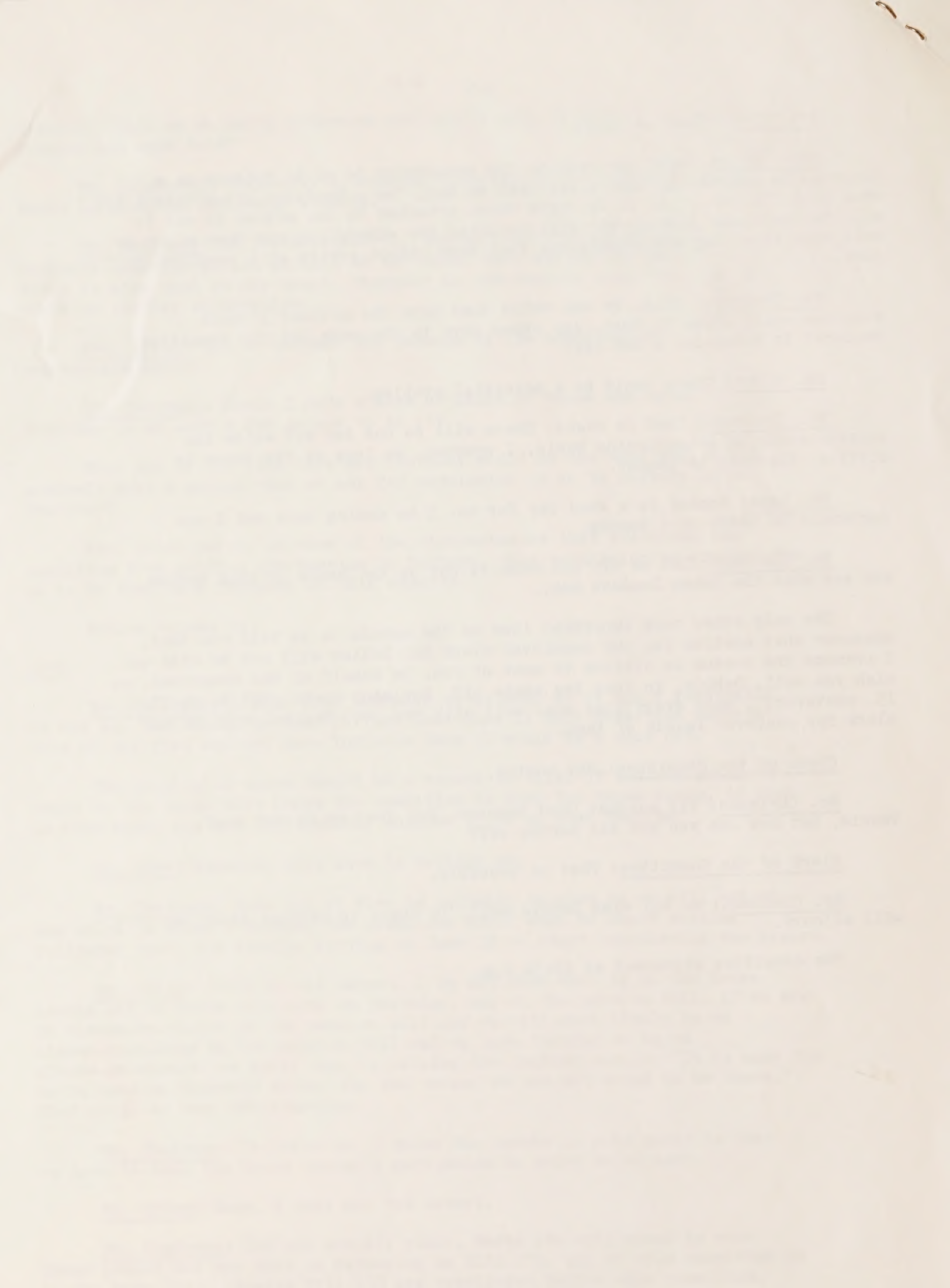
Clerk of the Committee: Six months.

Mr. Chairman: Six months? Good heavens. Not that we do not want Tannis, but how can you get six months off?

Clerk of the Committee: That is possible.

Mr. Chairman: We all wish Debbie well. If there is nothing else, we will adjourn.

The committee adjourned at 10:36 a.m.





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STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

ORGANIZATION

SCHOOL BOARDS AND TEACHERS COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ACT

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1987

Morning Sitting



STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

CHAIRMAN: McCague, G. R. (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Guindon, L. B. (Cornwall PC)

Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)

Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)

Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt L)

McKessock, R. (Grey L)

Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

Offer, S. (Mississauga North L)

Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)

Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Substitutions:

Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP) for Mr. Swart

Reycraft, D. R. (Middlesex L) for Mr. Lupusella

Also taking part:

Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)

Davis, W. C. (Scarborough Centre PC)

Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)

Polsinelli, C. (Yorkview L)

Clerk: Deller, D.

Clerk pro tem: Manikel, T.

Staff:

Gardner, Dr. R. J. L., Assistant Chief, Legislative Research Service



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Thursday, June 25, 1987

The committee met at 10:08 a.m. in room 228.

ORGANIZATION

Mr. Chairman: Last week, Bill 56 was referred to this committee. I understand there has been some discussion with the House leaders as to what we might do about that. Does anybody have any ideas?

Mrs. Grier moves that we schedule hearings on that bill starting in September.

Do we have a seconder? Mr. Guindon. Discussion?

Mr. Offer: It is our position that we would like the bill, if at all possible, referred back to the House in its present form so that it might be passed as soon as possible.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I read some of the press today on the government's notion that going to public hearings on this was going to somehow block the passage of this or that there is something unusual about a request that this kind of bill go out for public hearings. I think that needs to be dealt with for a bit. The idea that this has to come back to the House immediately or as quickly as possible is really an argument that needs to have the appropriate holes shot in it, and I would like to try to do that, if I might.

This bill, as far as we are concerned, does not deal with the major problems in the insurance industry. It was supposed to come with a companion bill that would deal, supposedly, with the really substantive problems in the industry. That bill has not even to this day been tabled. We may even be rising tonight or possibly the beginning of the week and we still have not even seen that companion piece of legislation.

The kind of freeze that some of us thought might be brought in with this temporary piece of legislation has not been part of the deal at all. In fact, the kind of savings involved for some people, the ones who have been hit the hardest, is minimal. A real freeze as our critic, Mr. Swart, has been asking for, and a rollback given the high profits of the industry, are not part of this legislation.

We think there is nothing at the moment to preclude auto insurance companies from advancing rebates if they choose to, based on the minister's approach on this. In fact, there are many people who are receiving \$5 and \$6 rebates at this stage. I think we will hear more about that as the day progresses. That is not something that has to be held back in terms of the consumer who might benefit marginally by this inadequate piece of legislation giving some protection. We think it is really important to get this out to committee, to have people come in and talk about why this is not adequate, to allow us, as we have the power in a minority situation, to improve this

legislation markedly and to place amendments after public discussion. We would intend to do that.

If we were to be meeting in July and August, those hearings could be held in July and August, but there has been a decision made by the House leaders that there will be no committee hearings until September, which is the time when that should take place. As a result, our caucus feels very strongly that because of the inadequacies of this bill, because of the need for public input to force the government to make it more generous than it is as an interim measure, even if it would not come to our position of believing that an entire change of the system is required here, we have no alternative but to use the due process of this House to basically call for public hearings and let the people and the insurance industry come in and talk about this approach and then take the usual steps to improve it in the fall.

That is why we are making this motion and that is why we essentially feel quite disappointed by some of the comments made by the minister, as if somehow this was going to stop rebates from going out to people in the meantime or was going to hold up in an unnatural way the process of what should be important legislation given the size of the problems people are having with auto insurance in the province.

Mr. Offer: To comment further with respect to these bills, there is no question that we certainly are aware that this piece of legislation is a temporary piece of legislation. It was meant to do two things, basically, on a temporary, provisional basis: first, not to freeze but to cap rates; second, to provide rebates in certain instances. I believe there are somewhere in the vicinity of 220,000 persons who might qualify for that type of rebate provision. We understand there are concerns and larger concerns with the insurance industry. We feel that this piece of legislation, because it is meant to be a provisional or temporary piece of legislation, is such that quick passage would be in keeping with meeting some of the very important and crucial needs of the people in the province. It does not and would not forestall further action with respect to the insurance question, and it does not.

This is a temporary bill. We are certainly not against public hearings and we are certainly not against the public process. We welcome that, but we do indicate that with respect to this one piece of legislation we are dealing with a matter of a very temporary nature, and that is why we suggest this bill be referred back to the House for passage without amendment.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I really do not know how much you want to get into the substance of this bill at this point as we are dealing with this, but you never know what these caps are doing. They are essentially meaningless for most of us.

If I could use myself as an example of somebody who renewed his auto insurance as of May of this year, the way this capping works, even though the company I deal with has had a major profit this year, my increase has been \$150 over last year's bill. I have had no accidents that I can recall in the last seven or eight years. The only reason this has come up is the supposed argument put forward about the dire straits the industry is in, which I think has been well countered. A person like me would get no rebate at all. Because of the dating that has been used in this whole process, the cap that is on means I would have to pay that full amount.

The kinds of savings we are talking about for most people are minuscule



amounts. We are talking \$5 and \$6 cheques that will be going back to people; in some cases more. Basically we want to say that with a government that is unwilling to move structurally on the problems of this industry, it would be fundamentally wrong for us to pass a piece of legislation that is as inadequate as this one is, temporary or not. We have had temporary legislation passed in this House that lasted over 20 years.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Income tax.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Income tax is an excellent example. I think it would be a real mistake for us to deal with this with short shrift and send back this piece of legislation. Anybody who is getting a rebate now or who has calculated out what rebate might be coming to him will understand it is really meaningless at this stage.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It might also be important to point out that for people who are expecting a 10 per cent roll back, the reality is that if a young person is paying excessive rates because of his age or sex, to accept only a 10 per cent rollback--he might not even be getting a 10 per cent rollback when he is already paying about 300 per cent too much--is to say he is satisfied with the insurance companies continuing to rip off young male drivers in this province. It is totally unfair and it would be misleading to the public for the Legislature to pass this bill and then have people expect that somehow they are being protected by the good Liberal government of Ontario.

Mr. Lane: I agree in part with what previous speakers have said, but not altogether with any one of them. However, this is the only piece of legislation we have that deals with insurance. Whether it is the right piece of legislation or not, I do not think we should be rushing into committee and back into the House without having a serious look at it and without the public having a chance to have some input into it. While I doubt that it is the right piece of legislation for us to be dealing with, it is all we have at this point in time.

Mr. G. I. Miller: I think it is obvious that the third party is stalling. They want public insurance and I cannot support that. They are even trying to indicate that we are not making any gains by freezing. I think there is a clear indication that there are gains to be made, because if there is inflation, no matter what happens, if you can freeze something, stop the increase, you are winning on behalf of every consumer in Ontario.

My rates are not out of line. My record has been good over the last 40 or 50 years. I cannot complain about the high cost of the insurance because it is realistic. I think if we can put something in place now that is going to put a lid on something, that is progress. I think the former speaker, who is in the insurance business, will understand that. If we want public insurance, we can just keep fiddling around. In the meanwhile, it will happen if we cannot show some good intentions--the insurance companies are trying to co-operate and provide the service they can provide. I think we are making a mistake if we do not co-operate and get the bill in place.

Mr. Lane: I certainly did not say I wanted public insurance. I said I wanted more discussion on the bill than we are going to have between now and when the House rises.

Mr. Polsinelli: I would like to add my two cents' worth to what has been said already. I think every member of this committee realizes that if

this bill is not referred back to the House for consideration by committee of the whole House, it is effectively not going to get passed this session. If you want that on your conscience, vote the way you feel appropriate.

1020

I do not think it is proper at this point to discuss the merits of the bill. We all know the third party wants public automobile insurance and that is something the government has yet to make up its mind on, and I am not quite sure what the position of the official opposition is, but I do not think it is appropriate at this point to discuss that.

I think it is appropriate, however, to discuss whether or not we want this piece of legislation passed before this House rises. If the position of the third party is that it does not want it passed, then obviously the tactic to keep it in committee is the appropriate tactic because it does not get back into the Legislature, it does not get back into the House and will not be considered by the Legislature until the new session.

I think, however, it is up to the majority of the House to determine whether or not this particular piece of legislation should pass. I think there is ample opportunity in committee of the whole House to determine the merits of the bill, whether or not it is appropriate and whether or not it will help the consumers of Ontario.

I would say, send it back to the committee of the whole House and let the majority of the Legislature decide whether or not it is appropriate to pass it. Let us not use stalling tactics. Let us not use a proper but procedural ploy to keep the bill from a vote. If the majority of the Legislature does not want to pass it, then defeat it in the House, but do not use a fair but procedural tactic to keep the bill in committee and prevent a vote from being taken in the Legislature.

Mrs. Grier: The previous speaker has missed a lot of the points of the arguments of this side. It is not a procedural tactic, it is an opportunity for the people of the province, who have been engaged in a discussion of one of the most important issues that affects every driver in this province and who have not had an opportunity to appear before a committee of this Legislature and put their two cents' worth in. I think what we are calling for is an opportunity for people to come in and say whether they think the solution proposed by the government is an adequate or sufficient one. That is why we want to have some hearings.

If the member wants to have them next month, I suppose the House leaders could discuss that, but the motion essentially is that there be public hearings on the bill, and that is what we want to see happen.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The fact is the Liberals are petrified of public hearings on this bill, because they know the inequities and the inadequacies of the bill will be pointed out day after day after day by public hearings.

Mrs. Grier: They cannot take it.

Mr. Offer: The fact is the NDP just does not want to listen to what other people have to say about this issue.

Mr. Chairman: We have had a nice chat on this issue.



Mr. Offer: It is nothing personal, but they just do not want to listen.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We will consult with the people one way or another, will we not?

Mr. Offer: We all will.

Mr. Chairman: We have a motion before us that the committee hold public hearings on this bill in September. Any other pertinent discussion on this?

Mr. Allen: Simply to respond to the last comments of the last speaker, I think the notion that somehow or other this party is not interested in listening to other voices is rather absurd in the light of the proposal we are making, which is in fact that this committee listen to other voices, and a lot more voices than we have heard to date.

We have had studies, we have had commissions, we have heard the minister, we have heard individual members of the Legislature and so on, but we have not heard the public. If you ask me about this bill, in terms of experience I have had with my constituency, and again with my own family insurance rates, we have received a rebate in the last two days of \$20, but when we added two young people to our insurance category, so to speak, in our family, that represents a minuscule proportion of the additional cost that we were subjected to. It was outrageous, because the drivers in question have never had a hint of an accident.

If you ask a young person--for example, I talked with one the other day who went out to buy a used car in order to take up a new job about 20 miles distant from home and then went to get the insurance and discovered that he had to pay as much in insurance as he had to pay for the car and therefore was not able to cope with the combined financing--you have your answer with respect to this bill.

There are stories like that out there that, obviously, some people in this Legislature still have to hear. What we are trying to do is to provide a mechanism whereby those voices and some reasonable comment can be heard and conclusions be drawn with respect to what we consider to be, quite frankly, a very inadequate bill. It is not going to remedy the fundamental insurance problems of people in Ontario.

We are quite aboveboard as to our purposes with regard to this bill.

Mr. Polsinelli: I appreciate what the third party is saying. What they are saying is that they want a committee of this Legislature to look at the issue of public automobile insurance. That may be an admirable and a worthwhile thing to do. Maybe a committee of this Legislature should look at the issue of public automobile insurance.

Mr. Allen: You are the only one that uses--

Mr. Polsinelli: Maybe we should talk about the work that is being done by Mr. Justice Osborne. Maybe we will come back with two reports for the minister's consideration. I think it is something that can never hurt. The more you look at something, the more you are going to come up with different points of view and different answers.

My point, however, is that this is the wrong opportunity to do it. This is a temporary bill; it is for a temporary purpose. Deferring consideration of this bill until September or October means effectively killing it. We are using the wrong vehicle to accomplish what we want to accomplish, which is public hearings on the issue of automobile insurance. I think you should have on your conscience that once you vote in favour of your motion, you are killing this bill. Any benefit this bill would have provided for the people of Ontario, you are effectively depriving them of it.

Mr. Davis: There is no benefit; none whatsoever.

Mr. Polsinelli: Then vote against it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There are two things. One is, there is an impugning of motives here which is not appropriate. What we are talking about here has nothing to do with our position on public auto insurance. We realize we have very distinct philosophical differences, but at least the Conservatives understand that on this piece of legislation there is a need for further discussion. I think that is fair on its own merit. The notion that this kills a bill, that somehow a committee, deciding that it will use its proper approach, that is, on some bills, to decide that it wants more public input, that that somehow kills legislation, is a Fig Newton of the imagination of my friend. Some people say "figment" but I prefer the cookie term for Mr. Polsinelli.

Mr. Offer: Oreos.

Mr. Polsinelli: I like Oreos.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Especially the super giant ones.

The point needs to be made that Mr. Polsinelli may be calling an election--and that is up to him, I suppose, though he should tell the Premier (Mr. Peterson) about it before he announces the actual date--but there will not be an effect on the consumer on this. People like Mr Allen and others are already receiving their rebates as the companies see what legislation is before them.

We are saying that before we make this law, let us make sure that this is as generous as it should be. Let us get people in here to talk about it. That is the regular approach of the committee. A few weeks of hearings on this is not something which is unexpected, untoward or should be seen as anything other than what it is; that is, a chance to let the public have a say.

Mr. Offer: Just on a point of something, I just stress that this is a provisional bill. It is a temporary bill.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is no such animal.

Mr. Offer: The reason we stress that it ought to be sent back to the committee of the whole in the Legislature for passage is because there is an exception--

Mr. R. F. Johnstohn: What is the date of that repeal?

Mr. Offer: --subject to the (inaudible) of the legislation indicates that the premium rebate is to be July 31 of this year. Just taking into account the agreements that have been made by all three parties, we would like this particular piece of legislation to be law prior to that date.



It has nothing to do with what a committee can or cannot do, what is or is not a valid exercise of a committee's power. Certainly a committee can have public hearings. A committee can just as validly send it back to the committee of the whole in the Legislature for passage. We are urging that because of the provisions of the bill, because of its temporary nature, because of the fact that 220,000 people are potential recipients of refunds, this bill ought to be sent back to the Legislature for passage immediately.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Could I just ask the parliamentary assistant, if this is a temporary bill, which permanent piece of legislation on the order paper now will replace it?

Mr. Offer: As you very well know, right now Mr. Justice Coulter Osborne is taking a look at at the whole question of that situation, and what we are talking about is--

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is it not true--

Mr. Offer: You asked the question, so I think you can give me the opportunity to give the answer.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There was a general report in November. It has nothing to do with government legislation.

1030

Mr. Offer: Notwithstanding the interruptions by the member for Scarborough something--

Mr. R. F. Johnston: West.

Mr. Offer: --what we are taking about is a temporary basis, and dealing with people who have had specific and very critical problems: those males 25 years of age and under and those taxicab drivers who found themselves in difficulty. That is the answer to your question. You might not like the answer, but it happens to be the answer.

Mr. Chairman: I think it is about time to put the vote. Does anybody want to declare a conflict of interest before we vote?

Mr. McFadden moves that there be public hearings on this bill in September.

Mr. Polsinelli: Just one more question.

Mr. Chairman: Okay. Mr. Polsinelli?

Mr. Polsinelli: I have one more question of the parliamentary assistant. I have forgotten, is the sunset December 31, 1987, or 1988 on this bill? The automatic repealing?

Mr. Sheppard: It is 1989.

Mr. Offer: I am not sure, to be exact, as to when the--

Mr. Davis: You are not sure.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Ask the parliamentary assistant.

Mr. Offer: I am talking about July 31 as when the premium rebate must be paid back.

Mr. Polsinelli: We know the rebates are going to be delayed if the bill is delayed. All right, let us take a vote on it.

Mr. Chairman: Okay. Those in favour of the motion, please signify.

Mr. Polsinelli: Recorded vote, please.

Mr. Offer: Recorded vote.

Mr. Chairman: Opposed?

Mr. Polsinelli: Did you record the vote?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, we did. It was six to four.

Mr. Polsinelli: What about names?

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: I think Hansard will record the feelings of everybody.

Mr. Polsinelli: We have the right to ask for a recorded vote.

Mr. Chairman: I do not know whether you have, after the--

Interjection: Not after the vote is taken.

Mr. Polsinelli: It was not after the vote was taken.

Interjections.

Mr. Polsinelli: The recorded vote was asked for, but it was not obtained.

Interjections.

Mr. Polsinelli: The chairman counted the vote.

Interjections.

Mr. Polsinelli: We both asked for a recorded vote.

Mr. Chairman: I have to admit I am not exactly sure of the rules--

Mr. Polsinelli: The standing orders have to be followed.

Mr. Chairman: --but I would mention that we kind of let you off the hook yesterday in the House, I think. In view of that, you might be content with the six to four vote that I saw, by hand.

Mr. Offer: I am not challenging your ruling, Mr. Chairman, but certainly I am not content.



## COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Mr. Chairman: I see, okay. Now, what we met today for was to consider the report on the School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act. Having listened to various opinions expressed by members of the committee, it would seem there is some thought that consideration of writing this report might be done in September also, rather than today, which may or may not be the last day of the Legislature.

I would entertain discussion on that subject. Dr. Allen, I am not sure whether you wanted to speak.

Mr. Allen: You were looking in my direction and I am always willing to respond, Mr. Chairman.

I would certainly prefer, as would other members of the committee, I think, to look at this with a little more leisure than we are able to at this point. That, of course, suggests September.

I do not know about other members of the committee, but I have not had time in recent weeks to review all of the submissions we have had. I have not had a chance to look over the very thorough compilation that Mr. Gardner and the research department have put together for us. I think personally it would be unwise for me to engage in that kind of discussion, moving towards even guidelines or frames of reference or major directions that a report might take at this point.

I would feel much more comfortable about us doing the kind of job we set out to do in the first instance. If we are able simply to take that up fresh in September and then to proceed from there, I think we would be able to do it fairly expeditiously.

Mr. Reycraft: I agree basically with what Dr. Allen has said. I do not see any compelling reason that we need to commence writing this report at this particular date. Having sat through most of the hearings, I think there are some ways to alter Bill 100 so that students and teachers and taxpayers of this province can be even better served by the collective bargaining process, but I was not able to attend the hearings in Sudbury last Friday and I have deliberately delayed discussing all the recommendations we have heard with my colleagues from my caucus on the committee until those hearings were completed. It certainly would be my preference to defer the writing of the report until September or some point thereafter.

Mr. Lane: I too think it would be a mistake to try to write the report in this short period of time we would have now. I guess the only thing I ask is, are our research people going to be doing anything on it during the summer months, and if they are, do they want any input from the members of the committee at this point in time?

Dr. Gardner: We certainly could. I think we would require the direction of the committee as to what it wants us to do. I think what we have put before you already might be about as far as we can go at this stage of the game.

Perhaps what you can be considering together is the summary of recommendations, the overall summary, and then the latest thing, which is a commentary on those recommendations which puts in one place what the Matthews commission said, what the existing situation is under the legislation and then

what the committee heard during its hearings. That may give you some sense of where you want to go.

We can do whatever else you would like us to do over the summer, but I am not quite sure what that would be. I think it would be premature at this point for us to really go farther ahead until we get a sense of what the committee does wish to recommend about changes in the legislation.

Mr. Chairman: There seems to be consensus on that. What then would be the agenda, to write a report on the first day or the first two days of the time that we will be allotted to this committee in September, prior to Bill 56, or what?

Mr. Offer: I was just wondering what is the first available date in September that could possibly be had for an organizational meeting, either the committee as a whole or through a steering committee, to determine what would be a more specific agenda.

Mr. Allen: Given the usual process of these things, which is that the committee has some discussion of the direction it wishes to go, the main themes it wishes to address and some of the particulars under those themes, then research takes it from there, normally, and tries to draft a document around those and then brings it back to us for us to edit and revise as we will.

I am not sure that I see, if I have heard you correctly, how we could set an agenda for us to write a report in the first two days of our committee meetings in September. What I think we might well do is, in the first instance, have the kind of discussion I just described, and then we would either proceed with other business or adjourn, which may be most appropriate, to give the appropriate time for research to bring back a draft for us to work on.

Mr. Chairman: What I was aiming at was, we do not know when the committee would be sitting in September. I presume it is up to the whips or House leaders to decide that. Should we then, though, set aside the first day we sit to discuss this review and on the second day start consideration of Bill 56? Is that agreeable to the committee?

1040

Mr. Pollock: Could research just write a preliminary report, more or less outlining some of the things that were in the many briefs presented to us?

Mr. Chairman: I think that material is available to us.

Mr. Allen: I do not think that would be a productive use of research's time. I think any of us who want to look at the general drift of school board commentary, teacher federation commentary, the public's input and so on can derive that pretty quickly from the summaries the researchers have already done for us, without their having to do a textual rendition of all that. That probably would not be good use of their time. I am sure Dr. Gardner would agree.

Mr. Chairman: Okay. There seems to be agreement on that now. There is a question of when we would ask permission to sit. September 7 is Labour Day.



Mr. Guindon: The first available date after Labour Day would be suitable.

Mr. Chairman: I do not hear any argument.

Mr. Lane: Just a point of clarification, Mr. Chairman: Are you suggesting we have a meeting to sort of get our thoughts together on how the committee is going to run during September, or are we going to put forward some of our ideas to research on Bill 100, then go to the insurance bill and let the draft come back to us the following week?

Mr. Chairman: The normal course of events would be that we decide now what the agenda is. As I understand it, there is some thought of allocating three weeks in September to this committee. That comes not from me, but from the House leaders. We are agreeing that the first day we sit will be for consideration of Bill 100 and following that we will go into public hearings on Bill 56.

There are two things we have to do. One is to get a budget for that. The second is that there will have to be public notice of the hearings so that Tannis can line up the participants. We cannot leave too much to be decided come September, because we want to get at whatever we are going to do in September.

Mr. Lane: Is the first day enough for the members of the committee to get their thoughts about Bill 100 out to research so that we can have a draft back to us before we finish the insurance bill without having to break and then come back again? Do we need two days? I guess that is what I am saying. Do we need two days at the start to go that route? I do not know.

Mr. Davis: One day is sufficient, with no problem, to put out the areas you are going to be exploring.

Mr. Lane: Okay, fair enough.

Mr. Allen: Do we have a duration for the Bill 56 hearings? Do we know what time we are asking for? Are we asking for one week or two? The reason I ask is that there is going to be an overlapping set of hearings on heritage languages, which I think Mr. Reycraft may well have in the first two weeks of September. That can be dovetailed nicely in the sense that presumably he and I could take the one day out of those hearings and be here for the general discussion. Then the committee will go on with its Bill 56 hearings and we will come back at the end for the substantive discussion and review of the document. That depends a little bit on how long you are contemplating the Bill 56 hearings to last. Will they be one or two weeks, or is there any way for us to know that at this time?

Mr. Chairman: I can only say that the word I had, that came, as I understand, from the member for London South (Ms. E. J. Smith), was that three weeks were being set aside for this committee to consider the two items. Basically, that means three weeks of hearings on Bill 56.

Mr. Allen: All right. That would work for me. That is fine.

Mr. Chairman: The House leaders and whips will have to figure that out.

Tannis could do a budget and have it ready for after question period. Do

you want to meet for a few moments right after question period to pass the budget? Is that agreeable? Agreed.

If there is nothing further, we would all go in to House duty and return here after question period.

The committee adjourned at 10:46 a.m.



STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT  
ORGANIZATION  
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1987  
Afternoon Sitting



STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

CHAIRMAN: McCague, G. R. (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Guindon, L. B. (Cornwall PC)

Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)

Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)

Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt L)

McKessock, R. (Grey L)

Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

Offer, S. (Mississauga North L)

Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)

Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Substitutions:

Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP) for Mr. Swart

Cordiano, J. (Downsview L) for Mr. G. I. Miller

Reycraft, D. R. (Middlesex L) for Mr. Lupusella

Clerk: Deller, D.

Clerk pro tem: Manikel, T.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Thursday, June 25, 1987

The committee met at 3:46 p.m. in room 228.

ORGANIZATION

Mr. Chairman: Tannis has prepared for us a budget for public hearings on Bill 56, An Act to control temporarily Automobile Insurance Rates in Ontario, to present to the Board of Internal Economy, if it has a meeting. If it does not, I guess we have to figure out something else to do, which I hear is that we go ahead and do it and seek approval afterwards. Anyway, we have done our part if we approve this.

The one thing we did not talk about this morning was travel. Tannis says Windsor, Ottawa and Thunder Bay. I always thought it was a mistake to go to Windsor. Chatham or somewhere in that area is more central--it gives more people an opportunity to come a few miles--than Windsor, which is really a border area.

Mr. Sheppard: We can change that to Chatham, can we not?

Mr. Chairman: It could be, but in any event, this is what she has put together, really based on history rather than decisions by the committee.

Mr. Lane: The last time we were in Windsor we got snowed in.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Sheppard, seconded by Mr. Allen, moves that this is what we present to the board. Is there any discussion?

Mr. Lane: It is not going to be used anyway.

Mr. Chairman: That is your prognostication.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Then the advertisement would be in the form set out before you unless you have other suggestions.

Agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: The other thing is I think we should have a member from each party to contact if we need to have a meeting. Dr. Allen, who would you suggest from your party?

Mr. Allen: I did not catch what you were suggesting they would do.

Mr. Chairman: Just a steering committee or subcommittee. Can I help you with Mel Swart?

Mr. Allen: Mel is a standing member of the committee. I am certainly not available since I am on another committee full-time and just on this occasionally. I will certainly pass on Mel's name, yes.



Mr. Chairman: Mel Swart for the New Democratic Party, Steve Offer for the Liberal Party and--

Mr. Sheppard: George McCague for the Conservative Party.

Mr. Chairman: I am chairman, so I think there should be another person.

Mr. Lane: How about Reverend Davis.

Mr. Chairman: He is not on the committee. How about John Lane?

Mr. Lane: John Lane is not on the committee after today either.

Mr. Chairman: You are not what?

Mr. Lane: Maybe my prediction will not come true.

Mr. McKessock: It is not over until it is over.

Mr. Chairman: That is agreed then.

Mr. Lane: Tannis will let me know if we want to go somewhere and have a meeting.

Mr. Chairman: Just on the advertising, you will note at the bottom of the first page: "One advertisement--all English-language dailies and Le Devoir." Is that what the committee wants? It would cost \$16,000 versus \$60,000.

Clerk of the Committee: Not quite, but probably about double if we had it in the French newspapers as well.

Mr. Allen: Why is the French advertising limited to Le Devoir?

Clerk of the Committee: Because it is the only daily. The rest would be weeklies.

Mr. Chairman: The point is that it is all English dailies and Le Devoir, which is the only French daily. If you go to the weeklies, you go to a lot more money. Tannis says it is double to go to the weeklies but, with all due respect, I think she is wrong. I think it could get up into the \$50,000s.

Mr. McKessock: Is that because there are far more weeklies?

Mr. Chairman: Oh, sure.

Mr. McKessock: You are saying it is more than double?

Mr. Chairman: I think it costs about \$60,000 to advertise in all the weeklies in the province.

Mr. McKessock: That sounds like quite a big budget right there.

Mr. Allen: There is Le Droit in Ottawa, which I suspect goes to more homes than does Le Devoir, as a matter of fact, in Ottawa itself. Le Devoir is rather a more elite paper.



Mr. McKessock: Is it a weekly?

Mr. Allen: No. It is a French daily in Ottawa.

Clerk of the Committee: We can easily change that if you think it is more effective. I am not that familiar with the French-language newspapers in the province.

Mr. Chairman: Let us have Tannis investigate that and check out the circulation in Ontario.

Thank you, everybody. See you in September or on Monday.

The committee adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

1. The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the plane was the fresh air. It felt like a warm blanket after a long journey. The sun was shining brightly, and the birds were chirping in the background. I took a deep breath and felt a sense of relief. The world was so beautiful, and I was finally home.

2. As I walked through the airport, I saw many people with luggage. Some were smiling, while others looked tired. I noticed a man in a suit who seemed to be in a hurry. He was looking at his watch and checking his phone. I thought he must be an important person. I also saw a woman who was holding a baby. She was looking at the camera and smiling. I thought she was a very beautiful mother.

3. I went to the baggage claim area and waited for my suitcase. I saw a man who was looking for his suitcase. He was talking to the staff and they were checking the bags. I saw a woman who was looking for her suitcase. She was talking to the staff and they were checking the bags. I saw a man who was looking for his suitcase. He was talking to the staff and they were checking the bags.

4. I went to the customs area and showed my passport. I saw a man who was looking at my passport. He was talking to the staff and they were checking the passport. I saw a woman who was looking at my passport. She was talking to the staff and they were checking the passport. I saw a man who was looking at my passport. He was talking to the staff and they were checking the passport.

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